

**Washington State Department of Health
Registered Counselor Workgroup
Chemical Dependency Professional Trainees**

July 2006

Introduction

The following outline is intended to serve as an Executive Overview about persons in training to become a Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP Trainee). It is anticipated that additional discussions with stakeholders will be necessary to reach consensus about specific education, experience, competency, and supervisory requirements as part of the rule-making process (Core Question 3, A, B, and D).

Setting

CDP Trainees provide chemical dependency counseling at or under the auspices of a state regulated agency.

Consensus Points

Per WAC 388-805, CDP Trainees hold a Registered Counselor (RC) certificate from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) at the time of employment. The RC certificate for CDP Trainees should move from the general RC category to its own category, aligned with the CDP credential. Therefore:

- **Revise RCW 18.205 - Chemical Dependency Professionals, to create a new RC certificate aligned with CDP certification. The new credential might be RC-CDP Trainee or CDP Trainee.**
- **An RC-CDP Trainee must attest annually, after receiving a certificate, to actively pursue the educational requirements per WAC 246-811-030 to become a CDP.**

Core Question 3

A) Should registered counselors have an education requirement? If yes, what is the minimum?

- **Yes. A CDP Trainee should demonstrate certain core competencies before providing specific counseling services to patients.**

B) Should registered counselors have experience requirements? If yes, what is the minimum?

- **Yes. The first 50 hours of any face-to-face client contact must be under the direct observation of an approved supervisor or CDP. All the remaining experience must be under an approved supervisor per WAC 246-811-048. A CDP Trainee can provide clinical services to patients consistent with his/her education, training, and experience. The CDP Trainee's approved supervisor has the authority to determine scope of practice.**

C) Should they take an exam?

- **While a state exam for RC-CDP Trainee is not required, the RC-CDP Trainee is required to take and pass a number of exams in core competency counseling areas while completing the education requirements to become a CDP.**

D) Should they be supervised? If so, what qualifications should supervisors have? How should supervision be accomplished? Should standards be different if you work in a facility or private practice?

- **CDP Trainees are supervised under the authority of DOH WAC 246-811 and DASA WAC 388-805. WAC 246-811 describes supervisor qualifications while WAC 388-805 describes elements of supervision.**

Core Question 4

Should we create an interim permit for those intending to become licensed or certified?

- **Yes. See introduction.**
- **The new RC-CDP Trainee certificate should be time limited, e.g., five – six years, at which time the RC-CDP Trainee will be expected to complete his/her education, training, and experience to become a CDP.**